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19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and	4:4 114 4 65 1		ATA TELLUL	Parions, Cua	neom chaos				
A. Stimulated Emission Pumpin									
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complete set of anharmonic con	stants for a 4-a	atom molecule.	. SEP stud	ies of $D_2^{1/2}CO$	have begun				
but the spectra appear much mo		congested.		-					
B. Quantum Ergodicity in H2CO		"Xoldd &							
The non-rotating levels a	re well organize	ed and unambig	guously ass	ignable as a	ormal mode				
combination and overtone vibra	tional states.	by J~10, Ka~2	the rotat	ion-vibratio	n levels				
are intrinsically unassignable total density of states. The	e, out the spect	cal density of	states is	not equal t	o the				
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C. Collisional Studies in E.C.				. .					
Several new techniques ha	ve been demonst:	rated on Hoco	HOCO and H	JCO/He or Ar	rotational				
energy transfer (RET). Transi	ent Gain Spectro	scopy (TGS)	and Transie	nt Polarizat	ion				
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MATTISMY J. KINGTER

Chief, Rechnical Information Division

(continued): 18.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

Anticrossing and Quantum Beat Spectroscopy, Barrier to Dissociation, Rotational Energy Transfer, Formaldehyde.

19. (continued):

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Spectroscopy (TPS) have been applied to the H_2^{γ} CO $\stackrel{\sim}{A}$ 1 A $\stackrel{\sim}{A}$ state. RET Follows dipole propensity rules and the rate of elastic reorientation is found to be negligible relative to the total of inelastic rates. Transient Absorption Polarization Spectroscopy (TAPS) has been applied to highly excited (11,400/cm $^{-1}$) vibrational levels of the H_2^{2} CO X_0^{-1} AI

B. Research Objectives

- 1. Apply the Stimulated Emission Pumping (SEP) technique to highly excited vibrational levels of H₂CO and D₂CO.
- 2. Discover whether the rotation-vibration levels of H_2CO/D_2CO remain well organized at chemically significant levels of vibrational excitation.
- 3. Develop new multiple resonance spectroscopic techniques capable of measuring rotational energy transfer rates (RET) in highly excited vibrational levels of H₂CO.
- 4. Develop statistical diagnostics for quantum ergodicity which are applicable to real SEP spectra of H_2CO/D_2CO .

C. Status of Research Effort

Progress toward all of the cited objectives has been made. Research in all four areas is continuing under a new AFOSR grant.

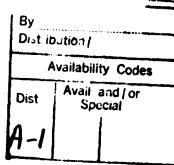
- 1. Our SEP spectroscopic studies of H₂CO are essentially complete. They have yielded an unprecedentedly complete set of anharmonic constants for a 4-atom molecule. Experiments on D₂CO have begun, but the spectra appear much more complex and congested owing to the higher vibrational density of states and the smaller rotational constants for D₂CO vs. H₂CO. D₂CO SEP experiments are temporarily suspended pending development of a suitable diagnostic for quantum ergodicity.
- 2. We have found that the vibration-rotation levels of H₂CO are well organized at low-J up to at least 9300 cm⁻¹, but nearly completely ergodic at higher-J. We are now attempting to discover whether levels which are organized (vibrationally assignable) display any systematic differences in collisional properties from levels which are quantum ergodic (intrinsically unassignable). To date our studies of H₂CO/H₂CO collisions have shown no significant difference in total depopulation rate for low-J vs. high-J levels.

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We expect that such differences are more likely to be evident in H₂CO/He or Ar collisions; initial experiments of this type have been successful and are being analyzed.

- 3. We have demonstrated several techniques for the first time on H_2CO : Transient Gain Spectroscopy (TGS), Transient Polarization Spectroscopy (TPS), and Transient Absorption Polarization Spectroscopy (TAPS). TGS and TPS were developed and tested on H_2CO Å 1A_2 RET. Total depopulation and total depolarization rates were shown to be identical. State-to-state RET rates were measured by both TGS and TPS, again in substantial agreement. Owing to the non-linear nature of TPS, it is much less suitable for measuring state-to-state rates than TGS. TAPS has been used to obtain total depolarization rates for several rotation-vibration levels of H_2CO X 1A_1 at 11,400 cm $^{-1}$. H_2CO/H_2CO and H_2CO/Ar and He collisions have been studied. Preliminary results suggest that TAPS state-to-state RET studies will be possib...
- 4. Using our complete set of anharmonic Dunham constants and the <u>ab</u> <u>initio</u> cubic force field for H₂CO as a starting point, we have begun numerical studies of the effect of anharmonic coupling parameters on the spectrum of formaldehyde. We are attempting to identify a statistical diagnostic which will enable us to deduce what fraction of <u>energetically</u> accessible phase space is accessible to a molecule subsequent to various preparations and how long does it take for the molecule to explore uniformly this accessible fraction of phase space. Two statistical diagnostics appear to be promising. Once we know what to look for in our spectra, we will begin to generate SEP spectra of D₂CO in the 5000-9500 cm⁻¹ region of vibrational excitation.





D. Cumulative List of Publications Resulting from AFOSR Supported Research

"The CaO D,d 1 , $^3\Delta$ -a $^3\Pi$ System: Sub-Doppler Spectrum, Rotational Analysis, and Deperturbation", R.F. Marks, R.A. Gottscho, and R.W. Field, Physica Scripta 25, 312-328 (1982).

"The Orange Arc Bands of CaO: Analysis of a $D,d^{1,3}\Delta-a^{3}\Pi$ System", R.F. Marks, H.S. Schweda, R.A. Gottscho, and R.W. Field, J. Chem. Phys. 76, 4689-4691 (1982).

"Selective Vibrational Excitation of Formaldehyde X^1A_1 by Stimulated Emission Pumping", D.E. Reisner, P.H. Vaccaro, C. Kittrell, R.W. Field, J.L. Kinsey and H.-L. Dai, J. Chem. Phys. 77, 573-575 (1982).

"Single Eigenstate Polyatomic Molecule Vibrational Spectroscopy at 1-4eV", H.-L. Dai, E. Abramson, R.W. Field, D. Imre, J.L. Kinsey, C.L. Korpa, D.E. Reisner, and P.H. Vaccaro, Springer Series Opt. Sci. 40, 74-77 (1983).

"Electric Dipole Moments of Excited Vibrational Levels in the X^1A_1 State of Formaldehyde by Stimulated Emission Spectroscopy", P.H. Vaccaro, J.L. Kinsey, R.W. Field, and H.-L. Dai, J. Chem. Phys. $\underline{78}$, 3659-3664 (1983).

"Long Range Behavior of the Gerade States Close to the 2 P $_3/_2 + ^2$ P $_3/_2$ Iodine Dissociation Limit by Laser-Induced Fluorescence Fourier-Transform Spectroscopy", F. Martin, S. Churassy, R. Bacis, R.W. Field, and J. Verges, J. Chem. Phys. 79, 3725-3737 (1983).

"Direct Observation of High-Lying $^3\Pi_g$ States of the Na₂ Molecule by Optical-Optical Double Resonance," Li Li and R.W. Field, J. Phys. Chem. 87, 3020-3022 (1983).

"Stimulated Emission Spectroscopy: A Complete Set of Vibrational Constants for $\chi^{1}A_{1}$ Formaldehyde", D.E. Reisner, R.W. Field, J.L. Kinsey, and H.-L. Dai, J. Chem. Phys. 80, 5968-5978 (1984).

"Laser Population of Highly Excited Vibrational Levels of Molecules", E. Abramson, H.-L. Dai, R.W. Field, D.G. Imre, J.L. Kinsey, C. Kittreli, D.E. Reisner, and P.H. Vaccaro, pp. 393-404 in Lasers as Reactants and Probes in Chemistry, (eds. W.M. Jackson and A.B. Harvey) Howard University Press, 1985.

"Rotation Induced Vibrational Mixing in X ¹A₁ Formaldehyde: Nonnegligible Dynamical Consequences of Rotation", H.-L. Dai, C.L. Korpa, J.L. Kinsey, and R.W. Field, J. Chem. Phys. 82, 1688-1701 (1985).

State-Specific Rates of $H_2CO(S_0) \rightarrow H_2 + CO$ at Energies Near the Top of the Barrier: A Violation of RRKM Theory?", H.-L. Dai, R.W. Field, and J.L. Kinsey, J. Chem. Phys. 82, 1606-1607 (1985).

Publications (continued):

"Intramolecular Vibrational Dynamics Including Rotational Degrees of Freedom: Chaos and Quantum Spectra", H.-L. Dai, R.W. Field, and J.L. Kinsey, J. Chem. Phys. $\underline{82}$, 2161-2163 (1985).

"Rotational Relaxation in the $\rm H_2CO~\tilde{A}~^1A_2$ State by Transient Gain Spectroscopy", P.H. Vaccaro, R. Redington, J. Schmidt, J.L. Kinsey, and R.W. Field, J. Chem. Phys. 82, 5755-5756 (1985).

"The Electronic Assignments of the Violet Bands of Sodium", G. Pichler, J.T. Bahns, K.M. Sando, W.C. Stwalley, D.D. Konowalow, Li Li, R.W. Field, and W. Mueller, Chem. Phys. Lett. <u>00</u>, 000-000 (1986).

E. Personnel

1. Visiting Scientists

Prof. Richard Redington (H₂CO TGS and TPS) Texas Tech University Lubbock, Texas

2. Postdoctoral Associates

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Dr. Hai-Lung Dai (H<sub>2</sub>CO SEP)
Dr. Charles Hamilton (H<sub>2</sub>CO TPS, TAPS)
Dr. Jean-Paul Pique (Quantum Ergodicity)
Dr. Friedrich Temps (H<sub>2</sub>CO TSP, TAPS)
```

3. Graduate Students

Scott Halle (D₂CO SEP, Quantum Ergodicity) Patrick Vaccaro (H₂CO TGS, TPS, TAPS)

4. Undergraduate Students

Ann Zabludoff (H₂CO, D₂CO Stark Quantum Beats)

F. Interactions: Spoken Papers

- R.W. Field, "Stimulated Emission Pumping," 181st Meeting of American Chemical Society, Atlanta (Nobel Laureate Signature Award Session), Talk 61.
- 2. J.L. Kinsey, "Laser Photons as Analytic and Synthetic Reagents in Studies of Reaction Dynamics," 181st Meeting of American Chemical Society, Atlanta (Peter Debye Award Symposium), Talk 19.
- 3. J.L. Kinsey, "Laser Population of Highly Excited Vibrational Levels of Molecules," Conference on Lasers as Reactants and Probes in Chemistry, Howard University (May 1982).
- 4. J.L. Kinsey, "An Outsider's View of the Spectroscopy of Polyatomic Systems Bound and Continuum States," Distinguished Speakers Series, Department of Chemistry, University of Utah (May 1982).
- 5. J.L. Kinsey, "Stimulated Emission Pumping: An Easy Route to Highly Excited Levels of Polyatomic Molecules," Aerodyne Corp. (January 1982).
- 6. J.L. Kinsey, same as #5, Brown University, Department of Chemistry (January 1982).
- 7. J.L. Kinsey, "Study of Vibrationally Hot Molecules by Stimulated Emission," Yale University, Department of Chemistry (February 1982).
- 8. R.W. Field, "Vibrationally Very Hot Molecules," Laboratoire de Photophysique Moléculaire," Orsay, France (December 1981).
- 9. R.W. Field, "Do Highly Excited Molecules Have a Structure?" Symposium on Lasers in Spectroscopy and Technology, M.I.T. (May 1982).
- 10. R.W. Field, "Vibrationally Excited Formaldehyde and Acetylene," Informal Conference on Photochemistry, SRI International (June 1982).
- 11. R.W. Field, "Stimulated Emission Pumping," Freie Universität Berlin (March 1982).
- 12. R.W. Field, same as #11, Aerodyne (June 1982).
- 13. R.W. Field, "Stimulated Emission Pumping: Vibrational Energy Redistribution in H₂CO and HCCH?" Harvard University, Department of Chemistry (February 1983).
- 14. R.W. Field, same as #13. Notre Dame Radiation Laboratory (March 1983).
- 15. R.W. Field, same as #13, University of Colorado, Joint Institute of Laboratory Astrophysics (May 1983).
- 16. R.W. Field, same as #13, Denver University, Department of Chemistry (May 1983).

Interactions: Spoken Papers (continued):

- 17. R.W. Field, "Vibrationally Hot Molecules: A Search for a Needle in a Haystack," University of Pittsburgh, Department of Chemistry (November 1982).
- 18. R.W. Field, "Stimulated Emission Pumping," Lasers 82, New Orleans (December 1982).
- 19. R.W. Field, same as #18, North East Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Hartford (June 1983).
- 20. H.-L. Dai, P.H. Vaccaro, E. Abramson, M. Lombardi, K.K. Innes, R.W. Field, and J.L. Kinsey, "Vibrational Energy Redistribution in H₂CO and HCCH? Quantum Beat and Stimulated Emission Spectroscopy," XIth International Conference on Photochemistry, University of Maryland (August 1983).
- 21. R.W. Field, "Stimulated Emission and Quantum Beat Spectroscopy: The $H_2CO \rightarrow H_2 + CO$ Barrier and Quantum Chaos in the Acetylene $\tilde{\chi}^1\Sigma_g^+$ State," International Workshop on Primary Photophysical Processes, Herrsching, Germany (October 1983).
- 22. R.W. Field, "A Time Independent View of Intramolecular Vibrational Redistribution: Coriolis Perturbations in Formaldehyde and Quantum Chaos in Acetylene," International Conference on Radiationless Transitions, Newport Beach, California (January 1984).
- 23. J.L. Kinsey, "Stimulated Emission and Quantum Beat Spectroscopy," American Physical Society, Los Angeles (March 1983).
- 24. R.W. Field, same as #22, University of Arizona, Department of Chemistry (November 1983).
- 25. R.W. Field, same as #22, Northeastern University, Department of Chemistry (November 1983).
- 26. R.W. Field, same as #22, Syracuse University, Department of Chemistry (February 1984).
- 27. R.W. Field, "Stimulated Emission Spectroscopy: Structure, Isomerization, and Chaos", University of Pennsylvania, Department of Chemistry (April 1984).
- 28. R.W. Field, same as #27, MIT Modern Optics and Spectroscopy Series (May 1984).
- 29. J.L. Kinsey, "Evidence for Quantum Chaos in the Stimulated Emission Pumping Spectrum of Acetylene near 28000 cm⁻¹", Conference on Quantum Chaos, Los Alamos National Lab. (March 1983).

Interactions: Spoken Papers (continued):

- J.L. Kinsey, "Energy Redistribution in Acetylene?", DOE Contractors' Meeting, Brookhaven National Lab. (May 1983).
- 31. J.L. Kinsey, "Chemical Dynamics Studied by Emission Spectroscopy of Dissociating Molecules", University of North Carolina (September 1983).
- 32. J.L. Kinsey, same as #31, University of California (November 1983).
- 33. J.L. Kinsey, same as #31, Tulane University (November 1983).
- 34. J.L. Kinsey, same as #31, Texas A&M University (December 1983).
- 35. J.L. Kinsey, same as #31, Rice University (December 1983).
- 36. J.L. Kinsey, same as #31, Harvard University (January 1984).
- 37. J.L. Kinsey, same as #31, Northeastern University (January 1984).
- 38. J.L. Kinsey, same as #31. University of Rochester (February 1984).
- 39. J.L. Kinsey, "Stimulated Emission and Quantum Beat Spectroscopy of Formaldehyde and Acetylene", 8th International Symposium on Gas Kinetics, University of Nottingham, England (July 1984).
- 40. P.H. Vaccaro, "Rotational Relaxation in the v₄=1 Vibrational Level of H₂CO A A₂ By Transient Gain Spectroscopy", Molecular Spectroscopy Symposium at Ohio State University (June, 1984).
- 41. A. Zabludoff, "Dipole Moments in the Out-of-Plane Bending Levels of A A2 Formaldehyde-h2 and -d2", Molecular Spectroscopy Symposium at Ohio State University (June, 1984).
- 42. R.W. Field, "A Spectroscopic Quest for the Holy Grail", University of Texas (January, 1985).
- 43. R.W. Field, "Structure, Isomerization, and Quantum Ergodicity in So Acetylene", Rice University (January, 1985).
- 44. R.W. Field, "What Does High Resolution Spectroscopy Have to Say About Structure, Chaos, and State-Specific Chemistry?", Shell Research and Development, Houston (January, 1985).
- 45. R.W. Field, same as #43, Herzberg Institute for Astrophysics, Ottawa (April, 1985).
- 46. R.W. Field, same as #44, AT&T Laboratories, Murray Hill (April, 1985).
- 47. R.W. Field, same as #43, Universite Claude Bernard, Lyon, France (June, 1985).

Interactions: Spoken Papers (continued):

- 48. R.W. Field, same as #44, Universite Paris-Sud, Laboratoire Photophysique Moleculaire (June, 1985).
- 49. R.W. Field, same as #44, Gordon Conference on Molecular Energy Transfer (July, 1985).
- 50. R.W. Field, "Spectroscopic Studies of Tunnelling in Li₂, Na₂, and Acetylene", Tunneling Symposium, American Chemical Society National Meeting, Chicago (September, 1985).
- 51. R.W. Field, "Quantum Ergodicity: Real Spectra of a Real Molecule", Workship on Quantum Chaos, University of Rochester (October, 1985).
- 52. R.W. Field, same as #44, Columbia University (October, 1985).
- 53. R.W. Field, same as #44, Wayne State University (October, 1985).

G. Patents

None.

COMPLETED PROJECT SUMMARY

1. TITLE: Sequential Excitation Preparation of Molecular Energy Levels with Special Structural and Chemical Properties

2. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: Dr. Robert W. Field

and

Dr. James L. Kinsey
Department of Chemistry

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

3. INCLUSIVE DATES: 01 October 1984 - 30 September 1985

4. CONTRACT/GRANT NUMBER: AFOSR F49620-85-C-0006

5. COSTS AND FY SOURCE: \$175,000 FY85

6. SENIOR RESEARCH PERSONNEL: Dr. H.-L. Dai

Dr. F. Temps
Dr. C. Hamilton
Dr. R. Redington

7. JUNIOR RESEARCH PERSONNEL: S. Halle

P.H. Vaccaro A. Zabludoff

8. PUBLICATIONS:

"Stimulated Emission Spectrosocpy: A Complete Set of Vibrational Constants for χ 1A_1 Formaldehyde", D.E. Reisner, R.W. Field, J.L. Kinsey, and H.-L. Dai, J. Chem. Phys. 5968-5978 (1984).

"Rotation Induced Vibrational Mixing in X 1A_1 Formaldehyde: Nonnegligible Dynamical Consequences of Rotation", H.-L. Dai, C.L. Korpa, J.L. Kinsey, and R.W. Field, J. Chem. Phys. 82, 1688-1701 (1985).

"State-Specific Rates of $H_2CO(S_0) \rightarrow H_2+CO$ at Energies Near the Top of the Barrier: A Violation of RRKM Theory?", J. Chem. Phys. 82, 1606-1607 (1985).

"Intramolecular Vibrational Dynamics Including Rotational Degrees of Freedom: Chaos and Quantum Spectra", H.-L. Dai, R.W. Field, and J.L. Kinsey, J. Chem. Phys. 82, 2161-2163 (1985).

"Rotational Relaxation in the H_2CO Å 1A_2 State by Transient Gain Spectroscopy", P.H. Vaccaro, R. Redington, J. Schmidt, J.L. Kinsey, and R.W. Field, J. Chem. Phys. 82, 5755-5756 (1985).

"Laser Population of Highly Excited Vibrational Levels of Molecules", E. Abramson, H.-L. Dai, R.W. Field, D. Imre, J.L. Kinsey, C. Kittrell, D.E. Reisner, and P.H. Vaccaro, pp. 393-404 in Lasers as Reactants and Probes in Chemistry (eds. W.M. Jackson and A.B. Harvey), Howard University Press, 1985.

"The Electronic Assignments of the Violet Bands of Sodium", G. Pichler, J.T. Bahns, K.M. Sando, W.C. Stwalley, D.D. Konowalow, Li Li, R.W. Field, and W. Mueller", Chem. Phys. Lett. 00, 000-000 (1986).

9. ABSTRACT OF OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A. Stimulated Emission Pumping Studies of Formaldehyde

We have learned a great deal from SEP spectra (Stimulated Emission Pumping) about the predominant normal mode character of many H₂CO and D₂CO vibrational levels in the $5000-12000~\rm cm^{-1}$ excitation region on the $\chi^1 A_1$ ground electronic state surface. Spectroscopy has shown that:

1. Nonrotating levels exhibit "assignable" vibrational spectra up to the highest E observable so far. "Assignable" means that the energy levels are well represented by Dunham type expressions:

$$E_{\mathbf{v}} = \sum_{j=1}^{6} \left[\omega_{j} (v_{j}^{+1}/2) - \sum_{j=1}^{6} \omega_{x_{i,j}} (v_{j}^{+1}/2) (v_{j}^{+1}/2) \right]$$

and the only levels that appear in our spectra are those calculated to have large Franck-Condon overlap with the \tilde{A} 41 levels from which our SEP spectra are recorded.

- 2. At J>5, $K_a>1$, $J\neq K_a$ most of the vibrational regularity in the spectrum disappears. The spectra become complicated and unassignable. We believe this reflects the almost complete loss of localization of the eigenstates onto any conceivable separable Hamiltonian basis set.
- 3. A marked departure from the behavior in item #2 above is found for the high overtones of the carbonyl stretch. The 2_n levels for n=4,5,7 appear to be free of the state-mixing effects found for all other levels.

Our present experiments are designed to discover whether spectroscopic information about level "assignability" or localization has any relevance to collisional or chemical processes. Does the molecule remember that it is in a special, localized eigenstate or is the collision so violent that the molecule forgets the nature of its initial state. This is a very important question in light of the fact that spectroscopy identifies localized levels embedded in a dense manifold of non-localized or ergodic states. Ideally, we would want to look for level specific chemistry, but such a study would be vastly more difficult than the measurements of rotationally inelastic rates which we have recently been able to perform.

B. Collisional Studies of H₂CO X ¹A₂

Although our goal is to look at state-to-state rotational energy transfer (RET) at high excitation energy in the X-state, we started by developing and testing techniques for monitoring RET in the A-state.

1. Transient Gain Spectroscopy (TGS). A cw laser probes for gain produced by pulsed population of a specific rotational level ($J_{Ka,KC}$ = 132,12) of the Å 4^1 level. The observed total depopulation rate for the initially populated roatational level is, for H_2CO/H_2CO collisions, found to be

$$kTOTAL(A 41 132.12) = 110.5 \pm 3.1 \mu sec-1Torr-1.$$

This rate is exactly what is expected for a dipole-dipole relaxation process because it is in excellent agreement with the corresponding rate for the \tilde{X} 0_0 levels measured by microwave pressure broadening

ktotal(
$$\tilde{X}$$
 00, $J_{Ka,Kc}$) = 150 $\mu sec^{-1}Torr^{-1}$

because

$$k_{TOTAL}(\tilde{A}) = \frac{\mu \tilde{A}}{\mu \tilde{\chi}} k_{TOTAL}(\tilde{\chi})$$

where μ is the electric dipole moment. Incidentally, we have made the most accurate mesurements of $\mu \overline{\chi}$ and extended knowledge of $\mu \overline{\chi}$ to much higher vibrational levels than had been studied previously.

- 2. Transient Polarization Spectroscopy (TPS). A cw laser probes for polarization transferred from the initially prepared J_{KaKc} level to another nearby level. This scheme was deemed necessary because amplitude noise on the cw dye laser in the 1-100 MHz region would make transient absorption spectroscopy in the $\tilde{\chi}$ -state prohibitively difficult. By TPS we found that the total depopulation rate of $\tilde{\chi}$ 41 132,12 measured by TGS was identical, to within 5%, to the corresponding depolarization rate measured by TPS. This means that elastic reorientation of J=13 proceeds at a rate at least 20 times slower than the total rotationally inelastic rate.
- 3. State-to-State RET measured by TGS and TPS. We were able to measure state-to-state rates in \tilde{A} 4^1 by the TGS scheme, and recently also by the TPS scheme. The observed rates are

$$k(13_{2,12} + 14_{2,13}) = 40\pm6 \mu sec^{-1}Torr^{-1}$$

 $k(13_{2,12} + 12_{2,11}) = 31\pm8 \mu sec^{-1}Torr^{-1}$.

This is probably the first measurement of state-to-state RET in an excited state of a polyatomic molecule. A remarkable result is that

$$\frac{k(13_{2,12} + 14_{2,13}) + k(13_{2,12} + 12_{2,11})}{k_{TOTAL}(\tilde{A} 4^{1} 13_{2,12})} = 0.64 \pm 0.10.$$

The two predicted strongest a-dipole $(J_{Ka} + J \pm 1_{Ka})$ rates account for 64% of the total depopulation rate! This means that RET in H₂CO \tilde{A} 41 follows dipole propensity rules astonishingly well.

C. Collisional Studies of H₂CO X ¹A₁ at E_{vibration} ≈ 11,400 cm⁻¹

Pulsed SEP is used to prepare a transient population in the $\[mathbb{X}\]$ 244_4 $5_{1,4}$ level at $\sim 11,400$ cm⁻¹. A cw probe laser monitors the decay of the prepared polarization (the rate measured by TPS and TAPS is actually twice the actual molecular depolarization rate). We have measured depolarization rates for the $4_{1,3}$, $5_{1,4}$, $6_{1,5}$ and $13_{2,12}$ levels and found that they are in good agreement with each other,

 $k_{TOTAL}(\tilde{X} \ 2444 \ J_{KaKc}) = 115\pm3 \ \mu sec^{-1} Torr^{-1},$

which is only 77% as large as $k_{TOTAL}(\tilde{X} \ 0_0, J_{Ka_0KC})$. This decrease is qualitatively but not quantitativley compatible with the expected smaller dipole moment for the $\tilde{X} \ 2444$ level than $\tilde{X} \ 0_0$

 $\mu(0_0) = 2.331$ Debye

 $\mu(2444) = 2.318$ Debye.

What is remarkable is that, even though the density of final states for this inelastic process has increased by 10^3 from $\sim 10^{-3}$ per cm⁻¹ at E=0 cm⁻¹ to ~ 1 per cm⁻¹ at E=11,400 cm⁻¹, the total depopulation rate decreases!

Our initial attempt to monitor state-to-state processes at high levels of vibrational excitation by Transient Absorption Polarization Spectroscopy (TAPS) appears to have been successful.

To summarize: all three schemes described here (TGS, TPS, TAPS) have been successfully applied to polyatomic molecules for the first time. They demonstrate the power of SEP schemes to populate selectively highly excited rotation-vibration levels. These experiments will provide a fundamental assessment of the relationship between spectroscopic observations of isolated molecule properties and state-to-state variations of these properties manifest in collisional processes.

AFOSR Program Manager: Dr. F.J. Wodarczyk

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